



BIRMINGHAM

44

BIRMINGHAM LODGE NO. 44 F&AM
37357 WOODWARD AVE
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48304-5003

TRESTLE BOARD

BIRMINGHAM LODGE #44

In Memory of Jos. Briggs, Sr, from
Steven R. Briggs
In Honor of Robert E. Meshew, PM, from
Edward B. Ray

Please send your check for \$30.00 payable to Birmingham #44 Lodge marked "Pillars of Patronage". This is an opportunity to make a contribution "In Honor Of" or "In Loving Memory Of". Please let us know how you would like your name to appear. These subscriptions help to offset the cost of mailing the monthly Trestle Board. If you wish to make a larger donation, the Birmingham Masonic Temple Endowment Fund would welcome your contribution

PIC FROM THE PAST

PGM Dean Barr placing a 70 year pin
on our distinguished Brother (ca 2012)



We're trying a new format. The printer allows us to use 11X20" sheets for the same price as 11X17". I'm playing with the design, and it will continue to evolve. This is in the print format. This is page 4; page 1 is to the right; page 2 below left; page 3 below right.



The Secretary's Pen

Brethren:

We have another full month of activity coming up in March with three Degrees and the Pistons game.

Speaking of the Pistons game, as of this writing we only have 9 tickets left, so please let us know as soon as possible — tickets are going fast! We are going to meet at 7pm at the Palace of Auburn Hills. Exact location to be determined.

We have plans to have a Degree at the Masonic Temple in Detroit in April (one of the Lodge rooms is to the right), which should be a fantastic experience for all! It is a beautiful building, and is considered the largest Masonic temple in the world! We plan on starting the Degree a half hour early at 7 pm. This will allow us to get out of there a little earlier and possibly have time to grab a beer Downtown. If you haven't been down there in a while, Detroit is turning into a very "happening" place. New restaurants and pubs are opening nearly every week, and the city is getting national and international recognition for its resurgence. National Geographic, of all publications, named Detroit "Top Unexpected Food City in North America" in January of this year. With the new hockey/basketball stadium opening next year, there should be even more opportunities for fun and entertainment in the city.

— Steve Skrzycski, PM, Secretary

MONTHLY CALENDAR — All Lodge Events at 7:30 unless otherwise stated

MARCH 2017

- MAR 2 — BUSINESS MEETING
- MAR 7 — TEMPLE BOARD
- MAR 9 — FC DEGREE
- MAR 16 — EA DEGREE
- MAR 23 — MM DEGREE AND DINNER—6:30PM
- MAR 30 — PISTONS GAME AT THE PALACE — CONTACT SECRETARY FOR INTEREST

APRIL 2017

- APR 4 — TEMPLE BOARD
- APR 6 — BUSINESS MEETING
- APR 13 — DARK — (MAUNDY THURSDAY)
- APR 20 — DEGREE AT THE MASONIC TEMPLE
- APR 27 — MM DEGREE AND DINNER—6:30PM

2017 CALENDAR

- March 30 — Detroit Pistons Game at the Palace of Auburn Hills — RSVP to Lodge for tickets
- April 20 — Degree Downtown at Masonic Temple
- June 11 — Pancake Breakfast — 9-11am
- June 15 — Detroit Tiger Game at Comerica Park
- Burger Night! — day to be determined
- Sept 9 — Corn Roast — 4pm
- Oct 6-8 — Visitation from Guelph Speed Lodge
- Nov 2 — Annual Election of Officers
- Dec 5 — Annual Meeting for Temple Board
- Dec 9 — 2018 Installation of Officers

NOTE TO BRETHREN of #44:

This Lodge is yours — if you have an idea for an event, please recommend it to the WM or bring it up in open Lodge. We love volunteers!

Greetings from the....Past? — March 2017

Brethren,

I'm learning it takes a while for our printed version to get to people, so I'm trying to expedite this issue so future issues can be on track. Our WM Matt didn't have time to get out an article in the time I gave him, so I thought I would reprint one I wrote from when I was Master in April 2012. I think it still has relevance:

HBO

One day, several years ago, my coworker seeking assistance said, "Hey, HBO man." When I looked at him quizzically, he left me hanging for a few minutes, and then translated, "Help a Brother Out" (maybe others knew this phrase, but I was naïve). He was having some fun at my expense, using the acronym for the pay-cable station. I thought it was clever and funny at the time, and we used it back and forth on each other while we worked together. Later, it took on a whole other meaning for me.

Masonry encompasses a lot of things, charity certainly being the main focus. Masons are always looking for causes to donate money or time. It could be a large charitable organization or simply helping a Mason's widow with her mortgage payments. Sometimes, though, we miss the forest for the trees: We miss the Brother sitting next to us in Lodge.

Being Masons, we think of ourselves as thoughtful. We like to believe we embrace the concept of Brotherly Love. Many Brothers are true friends and see each other outside of Lodge. Many times, however, a Brother sitting next to you week in and week out might have some real issues and you would never know it.

It is a funny part of human nature that we worry more about someone who isn't there than someone who is. A Brother who hasn't been in the Lodge for a few months is suddenly thought to be sick or in trouble, while the Brother next to us may have just come from the hospital where his wife or child is ill. A Brother drops out and we search for reasons, and look at each other for cause. In the meantime, a regular who has been there every week has just lost his job, or maybe just needs someone to talk to.

Certainly — and thankfully — there are many exceptions: I see a wonderful trend in our Lodge of one Brother hiring another Brother in the trades to do work around his house; of helping out with child care; even helping others find jobs. Sometimes it is simple things, like meeting after work to share some thoughts and concerns over a beer.

There are many forms of charity, but there is a saying about charity starting first at home. Our Masonic home is our Lodge. Don't be afraid or feel like you are intruding to ask the Brother sitting next to you how he is really doing, and if there is anything you can do to help him. Hey, HBO man: Help a Brother Out.

Steve Skrzycski, PM
Secretary.





While the occasion admonishes us to consider the uncertainty of human life and the unremittable certainty of death, with equal urgency it graciously invites us to regard death as the open door, through which man passes from his labors on earth to the nobler service of life in the world to come

John Kanaga

Raised: June 28, 1955

Deceased: January 21, 2017

And when at last their weary feet shall have reached the end of their toilsome journey and from their nerveless grasp shall forever drop the working tools of life, may it be their lot to hear from Him who sitteth there as Judge Supreme the welcome words, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the Joy of thy Lord."

THE NEW WEBSITE IS UP!

The address is www.birmingham44.net

It is still a work in progress, but it's functional — need to add pictures. Let us know what you think.



A CHAPLAIN'S MEANDERING PATH “AS THE SUN RISES IN THE EAST...”

Sound principles, great examples and logical connections surround us in this great fraternity of Masonry! Right from the beginning, in our Masonic travels and introductions we are shown how our religious backgrounds, moral teachings and beliefs and codes of ethics and upstanding ideals are all intermingled with the fabric of life and the path of humanitarian travel. Our attention is frequently drawn to biblical and religious connotations to justify construct, both physical and mental! Thus, when we hear or are drawn to the opening lines, “As The Sun Rises In The East to Open and Govern The Day,...” so starts our mental construct and attitudinal adjustment to focus our minds and actions to the business of Masonry. It is one of the first Major steps in our travels, not only to that far Middle Eastern panorama but also to the world and our own particular paths of endeavor. We learn not only to submit to a given authority with joy and passion but to so regulate all of our endeavors that we may become a more joyful and useful individual in all of the paths we are about to travel. We learn that it is nobler to serve others than to grovel in the grit of self-interest and selfishness. Yes, our ritual and practices offer a suggestion of how to better life and offer a way to truly find “LIGHT”. Sometimes our ritual and expression of explanation appear archaic and out of sorts, but they aren’t simply written and organized for a fast scan. Just as they were written with obvious care and not so obvious revelation, so should we take care to study and search all of the words and meanings associated with these valuable Masonic offerings and gentle constructs. May your Masonic paths and growth continue to search and explore as our ritual intends for you to do.

Serious thoughts are offered for serious contemplation and a willingness to welcome and accommodate our new Brethren being initiated, passed and raised. Please avail yourselves of this rewarding opportunity; it just may reveal an even greater reward than ever anticipated! We look forward to seeing YOU at the next Degree, social function, dinner or scheduled activity. There is so much to enjoy, experience and yes, contemplate.

“Behold How Good And How Pleasant It is...”
Robert C. Hall, P. M., Chaplain



MARCH 30

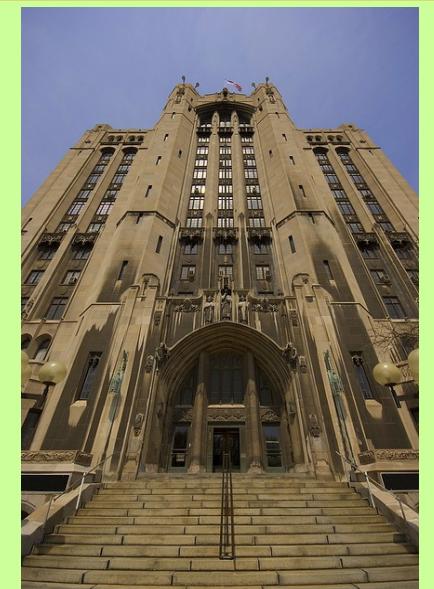
FELLOWSHIP EVENT!!!

WATCH THE EXCITING DETROIT PISTONS
TAKE ON THE BROOKLYN NETS.

TICKETS ARE \$30 AND ARE GOING FAST!

CONTACT WM MATT WILDE AT (248) 703-4709

OR THE SECRETARY@BIRMINGHAM44.COM
PLEASE PAY IN ADVANCE



DEGREE NIGHT AT THE MASONIC
TEMPLE IN DETROIT — APRIL 20TH
AT 7 PM.

DETAILS TO FOLLOW SOON!